

# CHANGES TO PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPOUNDS

On March 15, 2005, Sections 11.52.020(27)(b) and (c) of the Codes of The City of Wichita regarding to hold “harmless agreements” (procedures for private property impounds) was repealed. Because of this change, the Wichita Police Department **will no longer** be able to tow vehicles from private property based on the previous “hold harmless” agreements. Property and business owners/managers which tow vehicle from their property should refer to Chapter 11.99, which sets out the requirements for private property owners/managers to have a vehicle removed.

- 11.99.030(b) – Notice must be given to the vehicle owner either by a sign near the entrance(s) of the property or a sticker or notice prominently displayed on said vehicle
- 11.99.030 (a) – The Wichita Police Departments Records Section prior to the tow:
  - Vehicle Year, Make Model
  - Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
  - License Plate Number
  - Towing Company, Name and Address
  - Where the vehicle it to be towed to/stored at
  - Person Ordering the Towing
  - Address and location where the vehicle is currently parked

\*Citations for illegally parked vehicles may still be issued pursuant to city code 11.50.020 (27)(a)

Any vehicle stickered with an Orange sticker by the City of Wichita Health Department is subject to tow 10 to 15 days from stickering. The property owner/manager will be assessed any fines/costs if the city of Wichita tows the vehicle from the property. **It is the property’s responsibility to remove these abandoned, junk, and/or illegal vehicles, to avoid a fine.**

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Police Departments Records Bureau Supervisor at 268-4186.

**It is the mission of the Wichita Police Department to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve the problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.**

## Helpful Numbers

**Records Bureau 268-4186**

**Patrol East 688-9300**

**S.C.A.T. Hotline 267-7228 “Gang/Drug Activity”**

**Health Department 268-8351 “Weeds/Abandoned Vehicles on Private Property”**

**Office of Central Inspection 268-4477 “Abandoned Houses/Code Violations”**

# City Code – 11.99

## Section 11.99.010 Purpose and Intent.

**Purpose and Intent:** It is hereby declared that the purpose and intent of this chapter is to protect the public and the rights of persons whose motor vehicles may be towed and stored by private towing services at the request of third parties.

## Section 11.99.030 Unlawful Acts

**Unlawful Acts:** It shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any person to fail to comply with the following regulations when involved in the towing or request of towing of motor vehicles from private property;

A. Notification. The property owner or person requesting the towing of or the removal of a vehicle from private or public property shall, within one hour of completion of such towing or removal, notify the Wichita Police Department Records Bureau of the following information concerning the tow or removal:

- (1) Vehicle make
- (2) Vehicle model
- (3) Vehicle year
- (4) Vehicle VIN
- (5) License plate number
- (6) Ultimate destination where vehicle is towed to and stored.
- (7) Person ordering the tow.
- (8) Address from which the vehicle is towed.

B. Notice and Sign Requirements. Except for property appurtenant to and obviously a part of a single-family residence, and except for instances when notice is personally given to the owner or other legally authorized person in control of the vehicle that the area in which that vehicle is parked is reserved or otherwise unavailable for unauthorized vehicles and thus are subject to being removed at the owner's or operator's expense, any property owner or person in legal possession of the property, prior to towing or removing any vehicle from private or public property without the consent of the owner or other legally authorized person in control of that vehicle, must post a sign meeting the following requirements:

- (1) The sign must be prominently placed at each driveway access or curb cut allowing vehicular access to the property, within five feet from the public right-of-way line. If there are no curbs or access barriers, the signs must be posted not less than one sign for each 25 feet of lot frontage.
- (2) The sign must clearly indicate, in lettering of at least one and one-half inches high and on-half inch wide, that unauthorized parking is prohibited and further clearly marked with lettering of at least one inch high and three-eighths inch wide indicating that unauthorized vehicles will be towed away at the owners expense.
- (3) A business with 20 or fewer parking spaces satisfies the notice requirements of this section by prominently displaying a sign stating Reserved parking for customers only. Unauthorized vehicles will be towed away at the owner's expense. in light reflective letters on a contrasting background.

## Section 11.99.050 Penalty

**Penalty.** Any person that violates the provisions of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000. In addition to such fine the Court may sentence any person convicted hereunder to no more than 30 days in jail.